

Citizens Advisory Committee Update Meeting

November 13, 2019

CAC Members: Roger Hewitt, Amit Raikar, Kevin Du, Benaifer Dastoor, Sandi Spires, Miko Ootoshi, Peggy Alreck-Anthony, Jenny Martin, Mori Mandis, David Nishijima, Ganesh Balgi, Elain Zhang, Shirley Frantz, Liming Wang, Wes Morse, Carol Gao, Gayle Marzoff, Terri Shieh-Newton, Zongbo Chen, Jena Rajabally, and Gail Marzoff

FUHSD Administrators: Superintendent Polly Bove, Deputy Superintendent Graham Clark, Associate Superintendent Trudy Gross, Cupertino High School Principal Kami Tomberlain, Lynbrook High School Principal Maria Jackson, Director of Business Jason Crutchfield, Manager of Residency & Enrollment Julie Darwish and Construction Consultant Ralph Jackson

CUSD Administrator: Chief Family and Community Engagement Officer Leslie Mains

Facilitator: Minh Le

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minh welcomed everyone back to the Citizens Advisory Committee. He began the meeting by introducing Director of Business Jason Crutchfield to provide an update on the Lynbrook Supplemental School Assignment Plan and enrollment.

Presentation of the Lynbrook Supplementary School Assignment Update 11-13-2019 (attached)

Jason reviewed the following:

- **(Students) Qualified As Part of the LSSAP 2019-20**
- **Summary of Transfers – 2019-20**
 - This is now the 4th full year of the LSSAP. Jason reviewed the variety of ways in which students may transfer to Lynbrook High School (LHS) and how that shows up in attending enrollment.
- **Attending vs. Resident Enrollment**
- **District Attending Enrollment**
 - Enrollment from 2009-2010 to 2019-2020
- **School Attending Enrollment**
- **Lynbrook Attending Enrollment**

- **Effectiveness of LSSAP**
 - LHS has 304 more attending students than resident enrollment which has helped stabilize enrollment at LHS and assisted in balancing enrollment of all schools in the district.
 - Maria shared that the LSSAP process is seamless at this time and inclusive of students who are coming in as freshman who did not attend Miller Middle School.
 - Kami shared that at Cupertino High School (CHS) there has been a decrease of one class of upper level Chinese given that CLIP students from Miller Middle School may attend LHS through the LSSAP. In turn, LHS has seen an increase of one class of upper level Chinese.
 - Applications for the 2019-20 school year increased which Jason attributed to parents knowing that the LSSAP would be in place for two years. This provided families with advance notice in order to plan for high school enrollment.
- **The Future of LSSAP and Enrollment**
- **Qualified LSSAP Projections**
- **LHS Resident Enrollment Projections**
- **Resident Enrollment Projections (Based on December 2018 Data)**
 - Jason shared projections of enrollment decreases for LHS, Monta Vista High School (MVHS) and CHS over the next four years. A CAC member asked about the net decrease of enrollment projected for the next four years across the district. Jason stated that the decrease is approximately 800 students by 2024.
 - The official enrollment projection report will be provided in December 2019 by Enrollment Projection Consultant Tom Williams.
- **School Attending Enrollment**
 - A CAC member commented that the decrease in enrollment with stable funding may provide the district with more resources in which to support attending students. Polly reminded the group that due to being community funded fewer students enrolled in the FUHSD helps in terms of financial resources however this is not the case for CUSD given that enrollment/average daily attendance is connected to funding. Polly shared that living in/near the school district is challenging for our teachers/staff therefore financial resources may be used to sustain our programs by keeping the high quality of our teachers/staff.
 - Maria commented that as staff continue to live farther from the district, it will become more difficult to maintain support for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
 - A CAC member drew attention to the similarity between the upper and lower bounds of attending enrollment from 13-14 to 19-20 which highlight the stabilization that occurred as enrollment fluctuated between those school years. Jason agreed and reinforced the success of the LSSAP to stabilize enrollment and the seamless nature of student transitions.

- A CAC member asked if the projected enrollment decreases might impact program offerings. Polly reinforced that school enrollment of 1750-1800 remains the lower end of the range necessary to sustain program offerings for students. The CAC member reiterated that it is anticipated that the programs will remain while the number of sections being offered will fluctuate.
- **Attending Enrollment Projections**
 - A CAC member asked if the trends of decreased enrollment in the FUHSD are being seen in other districts in the Bay Area. Polly stated that her colleagues share that they are experiencing decline in enrollment. However she was not aware of their rate of decline.
 - A CAC member asked what was maintaining enrollment at Fremont High School. It was stated that growth in the city of Sunnyvale was maintaining their enrollment.
 - A CAC member commented that there are more apartment residences in the attendance areas of Fremont High School (FHS), CHS and Homestead High School (HHS) as opposed to LHS and MVHS which is predominantly single family homes and experiencing significant decline in enrollment.
 - A CAC member inquired about what impact development at Vallco could have on enrollment. Polly shared that she is not concerned about the rather low enrollment generation rate from Vallco and reflected back on the growth in Sunnyvale which is maintaining the enrollment at FHS. The level of growth in Sunnyvale is not projected with redevelopment at Vallco.

Discussion

- Minh asked Polly to share with the CAC her viewpoint on the LSSAP and enrollment plan at this time. Polly shared that the Board appreciates a recommendation from the CAC along with knowing that enrollment continues to be monitored.
- Jason reminded the CAC that the two year LSSAP provided stabilization for LHS and planning for families.
- Julie shared that the CAC may benefit from increased representation for MVHS as planning beyond the next two years is discussed.
- A CAC Member shared that increased representation from North Sunnyvale should be considered given the growth at FHS and HHS.
- Minh took a poll of the CAC membership.
 - The CAC unanimously agrees to recommend to the Board two more years of the LSSAP: 2020-21 and 2021-2022

Introduction for Housing Presentation (attached)

- Polly reviewed a presentation that was provided on November 7, 2019 at a joint Board meeting between FUHSD, Cupertino Union School District, and Sunnyvale School District.

Current Enrollment Planning at Cupertino Union School District

- Minh shared that while there was a great deal of interest among CAC members in what CUSD will do about its enrollment challenges, it was not the objective of the FUHSD CAC to be deeply involved in the CUSD enrollment planning. The goal for tonight was to hear about the planning in CUSD and how the community would be involved.
- Leslie Mains shared that similar to the enrollment decline at LHS, there were elementary schools in the Miller feeder pattern that have 300 students while there are elementary schools in the HHS/FHS feeder pattern with 1100 students. Resolving the balancing issue is more challenging in an elementary district. Since 2015 there has been a loss of 2000 students; up to 2024 the loss is projected to be another 2000 students. CUSD is also starting to watch the Kennedy feeder pattern, to MVHS, given the projected decline in enrollment.
- CUSD will be hosting regular and special Board meetings at each of the 5 middle schools. At each meeting information will be shared about overall district trends and then focus on data for the feeder pattern. The purpose of the meetings is to allow the Board to look deeply at the data for each feeder pattern and hear from the community. These are listening sessions. By the end of the school year there may or may not be a recommendation. Leslie invited any interested CAC members to attend and referenced that at a recent community meeting the work of the FUHSD CAC was highlighted by a community member.
- Minh asked if there is a priority between balancing enrollment and managing the financial impact for the district. Leslie replied that both are important. Current financial cuts have been kept away from school sites.
- A CAC member asked if the preschool program has helped. Leslie replied that the preschool program has brought in some money to the district but as far as enrollment it has not had a significant impact. Leslie shared that this fall at Muir there were only 14 resident kindergarteners. With transfers the district was able to have one kindergarten class at Muir. As students move through the grades in an elementary school there needs to be more than one kindergarten class to sustain enrollment over time.
- A CAC member asked in terms of balancing enrollment, if there was a “sweet spot” in terms of the size of an elementary school in CUSD. Leslie shared that for elementary school sites the ideal would be no fewer than 3 and no more 6 kindergarten classes; 432 to 864 students to run a school efficiently in terms teacher collaboration and parent volunteerism.

- A CAC member shared that on Next Door there is concern that John Muir Elementary School would be closed. The member inquired as to whether elementary schools would need to close. Leslie stated that there are many options to consider. For instance alternative schools pull students from neighborhood schools and should enrollment in these schools be reviewed. She reflected that the Board valued “neighborhood-ness” and choice.
- A CAC member shared that they were in attendance at the John Muir meeting and felt that many of the families in attendance felt as families did a few years ago when enrollment was of concern at LHS. The member stressed the importance of open communication and the lessons that were learned through the FUHSD CAC process. The member emphasized broad community involvement. Leslie stated that the Muir meeting was what led the Board to decide that community meetings were important within each middle school feeder pattern. Leslie reiterated that balancing enrollment, addressing declining enrollment and financial concerns are all important areas of consideration for CUSD.
- Minh and the CAC members thanked Leslie for being present at the meeting.

Other Topics of Discussion

- Polly shared the benefit of having a well-informed and engaged advisory group to assist in thinking on a number of topics. She would like to come back at another meeting to discuss their role beyond enrollment.
- Polly encouraged CAC members to attend the CUSD listening meetings. She also shared that average daily attendance funded districts across the state are funded the same no matter the community, as opposed to considering zip code/cost of living in that area. Therefore, CUSD faces the same challenges as FUHSD while being funded by revenue limit/ average daily attendance. Polly encourages CAC members to help inform other members in the community and communicate with legislators. Advocate for a funding adjustment based on zip code of the school district.
- Polly shared background about the Educational Options building where the meeting was held. Programs include support for students who have been expelled, need alternative opportunities and post-secondary programs for students with special needs from 18-22 years old. The district is very proud of this building and how it stands for the belief in supporting all students.
- Balancing of enrollment has been very important to maintaining our facilities. Polly inquired about CAC member input regarding community support for future bond needs.
- A CAC member shared that with specific information, the community would be supportive. Other CAC members reinforced the need to be very clear about the components of a proposed bond.
- Another CAC member shared the importance of considering the cap on tax deductions particularly if CUSD is seeking bond or parcel tax.

- A CAC member stated that while there has been support for bond measures the community has not supported an increase in our parcel tax. Another CAC member shared that while facilities are important, maintaining quality teachers is important and possibly a parcel tax should be supported.
- Polly shared that polling data on increasing the current parcel tax for the district has not demonstrated community support for raising the parcel tax which has been in place since 2004. Only 15% of voters are FUHSD parents.
- A CAC member wondered what it would take to retain staff and inquired about housing subsidies. Polly referenced a plan that was presented at the joint Board meeting on November 8, 2019. She also referenced child care subsidies.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.